

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 09:03:26 PM

### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2018

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

1330

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

06/21/2018

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

06/21/2020

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 541

### 13. Effective Date

08/14/1981

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open Meetings and Dates 0 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 2 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 2

#### Purpose

2017 Fall Advisory Meeting

Advisory Committee meeting

#### Start

11/29/2017

09/19/2018

#### End

- 12/01/2017

- 09/22/2018

### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$40,000.00	\$60,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18d. Total</b>	\$86,000.00	\$140,000.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.50	0.50

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the care of and support for the rapidly decreasing former prisoners of war (FPOWs) community. The Committee closely monitors VA programs and policies to ensure that the needs of FPOWs are met. Committee recommendations are specifically tailored to address the unique circumstances of POW confinement, and those recommendations routinely require active collaboration among VA's respective administrations. The Committee continues to be very successful in affecting VA policies and federal legislation mandating improved services to FPOWs [This aligns to: VA Strategic goal 1 Veterans choose VA for easy access, greater choices, and clear information to make informed decisions]. The Committee recommended and VA implemented the automated processing of DIC claims for surviving spouses of FPOWs [This aligns to VA strategic goal 2: Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey]. The Committee also has concerns regarding the proper staffing of the Care and Benefit teams at each VA medical center. Some of the challenges faced by the POWs include matters that are supported by the Secretary's current top priorities -- many POWs experience increased risk of death by suicide, adverse outcomes related to opiate usage, and getting access efficient and timely access to mental and physical healthcare. VA is committed to ensure properly trained employees are staffed at each hospital [This aligns to VA Strategic goal 4: VA will modernize systems and focus resources more efficiently to be competitive and to provide World Class capabilities to Veterans and its employees].

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee is composed of seven former prisoner of war (FPOW) Veterans and five non FPOWs. One FPOW member is a physician. The members of the Committee, who are former prisoners of war, represent WWII (Germany), Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War eras. Together the Committee approaches the issues of FPOWs scientifically, medically and personally. There is one Ex-Officio member who represents the medical and benefits programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Committee is actively recruiting new members.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Committee usually meets twice a year, in varies locations bases on the needs within the FPOW community. The purpose for meetings is for local FPOWs and Veterans service organizations to have the opportunity to meet and interact with the Committee.

This process has resulted in beneficial legislation and improved services for FPOWs, and is expected to continue to do so. The Committee has received numerous briefings by senior and mid level VA officials on how the Department is addressing the special needs of FPOWS, both nationally and at local VA facilities. They have received status reports on revised VA processes and policies designed to comply with recommendations of the Committee. In FY 2018, the Committee held two meetings a site visit on November 29 - December, 2017 to Atlanta, and site visit on September 19 - 22, 2019 to Loma Linda, CA.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Committee represents a unique segment of our Veteran population which is able to review recommendations and ideas objectively. Proposals from the Committee are intended to assist all FPOWs regardless of age, war or personal circumstance.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, if the committee tours a VA facility, the meetings are closed to the public to protect patient privacy.

**21. Remarks**

NA

**Designated Federal Officer**

Leslie N Williams Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
CLANCY, CAROYLN	03/01/2017	03/01/2019	Under Secretary for Health	Ex Officio Member
CORRE, HARRY	10/01/2016	10/01/2019	VA EMPLOYEE	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Carson, Lane	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Retired from Governor Jindal's cabinet as Secretary of Veteran Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Certain, Robert	08/01/2015	09/30/2018	Col., retired, Priest, author, FPOW (Vietnam)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
HAIN, ROBERT	10/01/2016	10/01/2019	RETIRED	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Milligan, Joseph	05/01/2016	09/30/2018	President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Environmental Decisions	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moore, Jeff	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Exec Dir, POW studies, Robert E. Mitchell Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Quarles, Shirley	05/01/2016	09/30/2018	Consultant to US Secretary of VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Richardson, William	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	President of Richardson and Sons Construction	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sortillo, Elliott	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Retired from Bethlehem Steel as HR Workman's Comp Investigator	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed:** 10

**Narrative Description**

The Committee advises the Secretary on the health and welfare of former POWs, and makes specific recommendations for the improvement of benefits and services as they affect former POWs.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee**

**for the life of the committee?**

220

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

90%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

10%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

VA responds specifically in writing to each recommendation made by the Committee.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



**Access Comments**

N/A